



Montgomery County Council

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COUNTY CABLE FEATURES INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR ON SMART GROWTH, ICC, GAMBLING, LEGACY FOR STATE

Governor Parris N. Glendening is center stage in a special 30-minute edition of County Cable Montgomery's "Up for Discussion" program which debuts August 11 on Channel 6.

The Governor, in the final year of his eight years at the helm of the state, discusses a wide range of topics with moderator Susan Kenedy, including education, slots and casino gambling, the InterCounty Connector, the need for more transportation funding, economic development, "Smart Growth," his proudest accomplishments and work left unfinished, and his future plans.

Some excerpts:

On "Smart Growth": "Sprawl is devastating our quality of life...If we continue our pattern of development pattern over the next 25 years as we have over the past 25 years, we'll consume more land in central Maryland than we did in our state's first 365 years. So we've got to make changes..."

"You know, the Supreme Court had this famous statement some years ago about pornography – that it's hard to define, but you know it when you see it. That applies to land use. Sprawl in many ways is hard to define, but you know it when you see it...We've worked, as a nation, 50 years to create this sprawl-generating machinery we have. It's going to take a decade or more to turn it around."

On the ICC: "We have a disproportionate amount of investment in roads over transit... Let's use really good land use to build communities, then figure out the roads we need – not the other way around..."

“We’ve looked at the InterCounty Connector – and seen that it would be a disaster. Candidly, when we were first looking at it a decade ago, when I was first elected Governor, I supported it. But the more I got into the analysis of it, I said it made no sense. The environmental impact cannot be mitigated, it will be very serious. It’s just not cost-effective. You are talking about at least a billion and a half dollars and the best analysis I’ve seen shows it will reduce about six minutes for people coming from central Montgomery County and going to BWI Airport...

“I know people are out there running for various offices saying, ‘Oh, I’ll build the ICC.’ But I think when they come to grips with what it really means, including the environmental impact, they’ll realize it’ll never be approved by the federal government. They’ll understand we need to look at alternatives – alternatives like better land use, more mass transit, and better utilization of our existing roads network – including carefully thought-out and designed new road construction.”

On additional transportation funding: “We must make additional significant investments in transportation. The next legislature clearly will need to come up with more revenues, both for mass transit and for additional road improvements.”

On education: “I came from a family that was financially very poor. I can remember when I was 5 or 6 years old. We didn’t have electricity in our house. We didn’t have indoor plumbing. Here I am. Not just Governor, but college professor for 27 years, the first one in my family to ever go to college. How did this happen? It happened because I had an opportunity to get an education – a good K through 12 education and help in going to college. I want to make sure that the same doors of opportunity that were open to me are open to others as well. “

On gambling: “I am very much opposed to bringing slots and casinos into the state. It’s an act of desperation. Maryland is too good a state and our economy is too strong for that approach. When I was growing up, my father said that the two ways you get ahead are by hard work and education, not that there’ll be a quick fix for everything. That’s what our goals should be as a society...

“I’ve seen states once you allow slots and casinos – they’ll say ‘Oh no, we’ll just put them at the racetracks,’ but once you put them there, each legislative session they expand them a little bit more... We’ve said ‘No casinos, no slots, no exceptions.’ That’s where we ought to be... Every study has shown that when you bring casinos in the money is so big that organized crime almost always follows.”

On future plans: “I’m always reminded that my good friend, now deceased, Lawton Chiles, who was governor of Florida, once said ‘I didn’t come here to

stay. I came to make a difference.' I always thought how powerful that was...We did make a difference... Now I'm ready to move on... For thirty years I've been in elective office...I'm looking forward to returning to a more normal life. I will still be very, very active. I hope to be a major voice for the environment, not only here in Maryland, but across the country and maybe even worldwide...

"My wife and I are having a little baby girl and I want to make sure that the world she sees, as she is growing up, is a better, more sensitive environmental world than what we have today."

The program with the Governor will begin airing on Sunday, August 11, with showings at 11:15 AM, 2:30 PM and 7:15 PM as well as at 11:15 AM, 2:30 PM and 10:15 PM on Monday, August 12, and 10:30 AM, 7:30 PM, and 12:15 AM on Tuesday, August 13. It will continue to air on County Cable Montgomery, Channel 6, throughout the fall.

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